

AN OPEN LETTER

Open Letter.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 6, 1910.
Mr. A. T. Stuart, Superintendent of Public Schools, District of Columbia.

Dear Sir: The Act of Congress creating and defining the duties of the present Board of Education for the District of Columbia imposed upon the superintendent vast power and responsibilities, not the least among which is that of naming certain subordinate officers second only to the superintendent in authority and power. In the continuance of Mr. Percy Hughes as your chief aid for the white schools you displayed your usual good judgment, for in Mr. Hughes the white schools have a broad-gauge educator—a man who is not only familiar with the school system, but by his knowledge and thoroughness has impressed both teachers and pupils with the fact that he possesses all the qualifications for a safe and sane guide. On the other hand, the legacy left by your immediate predecessor, the assistant superintendent for the colored schools, has proven a lamentable failure!

Inducted into a position previously held by such competent and experienced educators as Cook and Montgomery, the present incumbent, after a few months' drilling, was placed by the before-referred-to superintendent at the head of the colored schools—a position next in numbers and importance to that held by yourself. If it were a chair in some college instead of the head of a vast school system, he would flounder in its vastness; as it is, X-rays fail to do justice to his infinitesimalism.

Mr. Superintendent, the colored people look to you for the betterment of their schools, not because Congress has placed in your hands the remedy; but from the fact of your personal knowledge of the great difference in the colored school management under Cook and Montgomery. The former, as you are well aware, were competent and practical educators, while the present incumbent is a visionary theorist and experimenter.

Mr. Superintendent, no large body, civic or otherwise, can be successful unless there is confidence in the ability and integrity of those at its head. The lack of those pre-eminent elements for success is one main reason why the colored schools are trailing far behind the white schools. The teachers' confidence as to the practical knowledge and reliability of the misfit at the head of their schools is of a variable quantity. Those, and they are few in number, who fawn for favors, are loud in their praise of the youth of Tuskegee, but the reliable mass who appreciate the trust, the people's children, confided to them are compelled to witness daily fruitless attempts to engrain on a public school system the ligaments of college life.

Mr. Superintendent, analyze the many, many things of questionable correctness brought to your official notice pertaining to the management of the colored schools, and, having done so, weigh them by your sense of justice; then add a margin for the silent, suffering teacher. The result, I feel sure, will be to the advantage of the colored schools.

In conclusion, Mr. Superintendent, Tuskegee is a wonderful institution and Dr. Washington's great insight into personal fitness and character has unquestionably made it what it is, as he is known to get none but the best educators, and let go only those who fail to make good.

I am, with respect,
THE EDITOR.

CULTIVATING THE FARM.

Regrets of Farmers—Col. Roosevelt's Address.

Rural district life is engaging the attention of man and woman. Cultivating the farm and living thereon will drive poverty from many a door.

President Roosevelt's address to the citizens of Utica, N. Y., is replete with advice to the farmers. As published in the South Carolina State, he touched every phase of life on the farm. This speech ought to be circulated among the farmers and their wives throughout the country.

The preachers, teachers and other leaders who are interested in the affairs of humanity, should lay more stress upon the importance of drawing the sustenance of life from the breast of the soil, thereby inducing 5-BEE.

The young to improve their rural district life. Then there would not be such a tendency to crowd to the cities, spending their time indolently and aimlessly.

Excuse the digression, but allow this observation in passing. If a compulsory work law could be enacted by our State Legislatures, which would drive the idle and thriftless youths from the street corner universities and from the park training schools of our large cities, where they congregate daily and play crap, when they should be at work; and banish them from the railroad stations and pool rooms of our towns and villages, it would be of untold value in the solution of the many problems which confront us, and be as great a benediction as compulsory education. If every county in the different States of the Union had its social settlement workshop, including a farm, where this indolent, go-easy class of humanity could be sent and compelled to work until habits of thrift and usefulness are cultivated, quite a revenue would be brought into the county treasuries, which would help to increase the school tax. This municipal compulsory working element should be paid

wages, part of which should be deducted for food and clothing, and the other part should be placed in the bank to their credit during their apprenticeship. When they have been trained to respect the dignity of labor and taught to work and can and will work, release them and use this accumulated money to start them on small farms, or some other self-supporting enterprise.

In conversation with a farmer and his wife in one of the States the other day they said: "We hire hands to work and these hands, instead of giving an honest day's work for the pay promised, work to kill time. When we leave them they slip to the orchard or to the watermelon patches, or go to the spring, half a mile away, frequently, and often leave the mule and plow in the field and lie under a spreading shade tree and sleep." A farmer in another State said: "I have almost given up the hope of making any progress on my farm with the kind of labor now available."

But the industrial school, where agriculture is taught in practice as well as in theory, will make a more efficient and reliable class of helpers in such fields of endeavor and solve many intricate problems. Therefore, every county should maintain a compulsory agricultural work-settlement for the indolent, non-criminal class, who can work and will not work.

Every public school should have an industrial department, and teach the girls to cook and to keep the house clean. Such training is largely neglected in the home life of the present-day generation of young people. Is it any wonder that there is so much tuberculosis fatality? Work is a panacea for all disease. Let there be less book grinding and more knowledge about agriculture and domestic science. A return to the farm will produce a better class of boys and girls who will develop into self-reliant and reliable men and women.

In his Utica address, Mr. Roosevelt told the farmers that they ought to avail themselves of expert advice from technical men, and not be content to go on without improving their methods of farming. He thought that the farm life should be made more attractive and that the farmers' wives ought to have an easier time. He spoke of the country church, and urged the farmer to have the right kind of religion.

Adam and Eve were the first farmers, and they combined farm work and religion, and had the best preacher—God. On every large farm there should be a church and a school, and the preacher and teacher should be as good as it is possible for human beings to be.

Says Mr. Roosevelt: "I want to be able to recognize the good Christian by the way he acts on week days." He says further: "I will never go with the type of farmer who says, 'I am down on the lawyers; I am against the business man.' I will go with him when he says, 'I am against a bad type of lawyers, or bad type of bankers.' In other words, I will go with him when he pronounces judgment on a man not on account of his occupation, but in accordance with conduct."

Please permit your correspondent to speak of a farm in Virginia, managed and worked by a lawyer and his wife. Here farming and law are combined. These people are wielding a most hallowed influence in the community. Because of its boundary—two rivers and a creek—its plenty, its beautiful situation, and one man and one woman, being its only human inhabitants, it is named "Paradise Farm."

The mountains, the hills, the plains, the valleys, excellent water, and pure, bracing air, make it an ideal health resort. A visit to Paradise Farm will convince you that all Mr. Roosevelt says about farming is worth while.

Everything the market affords is produced on this farm. Hence the high-priced food problem here is not a knotty question. They have many horses, mules, oxen, swine, chickens, turkeys, apple trees, peach trees, cherry trees, all kinds of berries, beautiful flowers, chestnut trees, walnut trees, and great towering pines and oaks. To see those stately oaks, deep covered with moss, reminds one of Tennyson's "Talking Oak." The scenery is magnificent! Goldsberry mountains, clothed in verdant vines; Nat-Lu-Park, with its sweet-scented shrubbery; "the Lucinda Picnic Grove," high, shady, and lovely, for pleasure seekers, are among the attractions of Paradise Farm.

Mrs. L. S. Chase Goldsberry is a most wonderful woman, having been reared and educated in Washington, and being principal of one of the largest schools in the city up to the time of her marriage to Lawyer Goldsberry, and never before living on a farm until now. It hardly seems possible that she has developed into a full-fledged, up-to-date farmer. She herself cares for about five hundred chickens. The henery yields dozens of eggs daily, which she ships to market. She mounts the machinery, drives the horses over the farm, and plants the seed the same as Mr. Goldsberry.

Paradise Farm is located in Nelson County, Virginia, in two forks of Buffalo and Tye Rivers. It is one mile and a half from Tye River Station, on the Southern Railroad, containing (500) five hundred acres. On the north and west are the Goldsberry mountains; southeast it has three and a half miles river front, affording bathing, fishing, and boating recreations, abounding with river-side parks and surrounded by the Blue Ridge mountains, some of whose chains and peaks are seen from all points of Paradise Farm.

The health features are excellent. Great springs here and there, among



GENERAL JOHN A. JOHNSTON, COMMISSIONER
Has appointed no Negroes yet.

which are sulphur, lithia, iron, etc. This farm, operated by Lawyer N. T. Goldsberry and his wife, is a busy work shop. They have the up-to-date farming machinery. His mower and rake harvests the hay; his mill grinds his corn and wheat, and that of his neighbors; his thrasher threshes his grain. The wheat is safely shedded. His wood saw, feed cutter and shredder are operated by gasoline power; indeed, all his machinery is so operated, and will soon again be put into use with his workmen for the fall season.

Goldsberry mountain is ringing with the axes and saws of his wood-choppers, cording wood to fill a contract which he has for fifty car loads of chestnut wood. On either side of this farm are large quarries manufacturing soapstone (and this farm itself has an extensive vein of the soapstone), the vein of which runs across Paradise Farm.

The owner, whose law office is in the city of Lynchburg, and his smart and excellent wife, spend their winters in their beautiful home in Lynchburg.

Paradise Farm is an Edenic spot for quiet, rest, and recuperation, and the Pilgrim (W. V.) shall be enticed to return next summer.

PILGRIM.

C. T. WALKER FOR PRESIDENT.

Eminent Divine From Georgia Will Possibly Be Elected President of National Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

Augusta, Ga.—When the announcement was made several months ago that Dr. Charles T. Walker, of this city, was a candidate for the presidency of the National Baptist Convention, a commotion was created, and it was at once whispered around the entire United States among the leaders that his election would be a certainty. This argument is more fully substantiated by several facts which, when looked at properly, mean his unanimous election. He is one of the most eloquent speakers and forceful debaters in the United States, and hails from a State that is overwhelmingly Baptist. He is the people's ideal, and has the ability to organize. He knows what the people want, need and must have.

The strongest thing in favor of his unanimous election is the fact that Dr. Morris, who has served for more than 16 years as president of the Convention, has said emphatically that under no condition would he accept the presidency if there were another candidate for the position; that it would have to be acclamation or not at all. It is understood that Dr. Walker has notified Dr. Morris that he is a candidate for the presidency and has asked him for his support. The delegates from Georgia are enthusiastic for Dr. Walker. It is said that when the name of Dr. C. T. Walker is presented at New Orleans for re-election, and that when Dr. Walker is put in nomination by his home State, it will be seconded by nearly every State in the Union.

VIRGINIA ARCH MASONS.

They Take Exception to the Action of Rev. Lucus.

It would seem from the action of some people of this world, like Banquo's Ghost, that they will not be down or stayed buried, it makes no difference what decision may be rendered against them. This event is called to my mind by an article in the issue of this paper of Aug. 27, wherein certain parties are trying to defend the legality of the so-called Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. A. A. Y. M. Masons. In this article the parties assert that African Lodge, 459, located in Boston, constituted in 1787,

was not legal, and yet the men that constituted the Lodge were regularly initiated, past and raised in a regular military lodge, working under the Grand Lodge of England, and this Lodge was chartered by the Grand Master of England and was known as African Lodge, 459, and was carried on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of England until 1813, at which time African Lodge and all white lodges working under the Grand Lodge of England were stricken from the roll.

The question has arisen whether or not they paid dowage fee. This does not enter the question; suffice to say that the Grand Lodge reorganized their legality; therefore, all of the legitimate descendants of the African Lodge must be legal, and all Grand Lodges duly constituted and organized by three or more legal Blue Lodges must be legal, and no Grand Lodge organized without three or more subordinate lodges is not or cannot be legal; and as the so-called Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. A. A. Y. M. Masons was organized in 1896 without a single subordinate lodge in the United States, we cannot see how they can claim legality. They claim to have charters or warrants from across the waters constituting them a Grand body. For anybody that is familiar with Masonic law knows that no Grand Body in foreign countries would attempt to invade the jurisdiction of the United States to set up lodges, as it is directly against the Masonic laws, because this has not been virgin soil for over 50 years or more; and aside from the Mystic Shrine, no auxiliary of Masonry has been brought into this country for over 50 years.

I hope that this short sketch will be satisfactory to all parties concerned. WM. H. SEVORSON.

The Smart Set.

The greatest combination upon the boards to-day is the Smart Set Company at the Howard Theater. The Washington people, as The Bee predicted some time ago, will support a first-class theater as well as a first-class show. Every evening during this week the capacity of this theater has been taxed to its fullest extent.

Mr. S. H. Dudley is a comedian of the first water. His acting is natural and at no time does he fail to win the admiration of his audience.

Mrs. Ada Overton Walker is the most refined genius on the stage to-day. Her singing, acting, dancing and everything about her perfect. She is no doubt the greatest actress upon the American stage to-day.

Now here comes Andrew Tribble. Where can you find such another genius? His make-up as well as acting is faultless.

James Lightfoot, who is a very young man, plays the part of an old man. Well, he is good, and he plays his part to perfection.

Miss Lottie Grady is a very sweet singer and dancer and plays to perfection her character. She is very sweet and refined in her stunts.

Mr. William Ramsey, who plays Moses Lewis, the sport, will no doubt be one of the best comedians upon the stage in the near future.

Mrs. Ella Anderson, who plays Carolina Brown, a widow, is entitled to the highest commendation. She is dignified and sweet in her singing and perfect in her acting.

The choruses are good and the young ladies show off to an advantage.

Too much cannot be said of the Smart Set Company, and those who have failed to see it have missed a great treat. All of the participants are entitled to great credit. The hard-worked participants in the show are the chorus girls, whose singing, dancing and the many changes of their costumes are some of the principal features in the show.

The genius who set the play to

music is Mr. James Brown, who leads the orchestra, and led more white orchestras than any colored director in this country.

INDEPENDENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

Taft and Roosevelt Denounced—Colored Voters Advised to Support Men and Not Party—Revs. Corrothers, Waldron and Neal Make Pointed Addresses—Rev. Ross' Wild Flight.

There was a large meeting of the Independent Political Movement held at True Reformers' Hall Tuesday evening. Rev. S. L. Corrothers presided and stated the object of the meeting. He made a most eloquent plea for Negro independence in politics and advised colored Americans to cease being serfs and cowards to political parties. He declared his dislike for President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt.

Mr. James L. Neal, in a well-pointed address, explained the object of the organization. He said that the members of the organization were not Democrats or Republicans, and that they did not urge colored men to support either party; but what he did advise was for the colored voters to support men irrespective of their parties, as long as they believed in equality of citizenship. His address was applauded throughout.

Rev. Waldron delivered a most vehement address. He denounced the President for his failure to protect the colored people and his white man's Southern policy. That he was no Democrat, but an American citizen. Any man, said Rev. Waldron, who would say that he would not appoint a man to office who had a majority of the white people against him was not the kind of man to ask for the support of the colored people.

The most unwise speech was delivered by Rev. Ross. His oratorical flights were without sense or reason. He denounced the men who erected the Howard Theater and said that the colored people could not be fooled, etc. That he wanted to see a theater built by the colored people with a colored manager in deed and in fact. This reference to the theater was irrelevant. Rev. Ross' speech did not help the cause of the movement.

Over the B. & O. R. R.

At a meeting of the delegates-elect to the 15th B. M. C. held the 31st inst. at Odd Fellows Hall, it was agreed that the B. & O. Railroad shall be the official route over which the delegates shall travel from this city to Baltimore, the convention city. The delegates from the Households of Ruth, meeting the same night, also agreed to travel over the same road. Both delegations will leave Washington at noon on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Mr. Isaac W. Scott, chairman of the Transportation Committee, has made arrangements with the B. & O. company to furnish a special car for the occasion.

I. O. of St. Luke of Washington at Home.

An old-time housewarming and lawn fete will be conducted by the members of the I. O. of St. Luke of Washington at the recently-purchased "St. Luke Home," 1924 13th street northwest (corner 13th and U streets). Friday, Sept. 16, 1910, from 12 m. until 1:30 p. m. Free will offering. Refreshments served at moderate prices. Admission free—Bessie B. Anderson, Deputy; A. C. Barnes, Associate; Mattie E. Bowen, Vice President; Sarah A. Barton, Secretary; M. M. Peace, Treasurer.

The National Religious Training School, Durham, N. C., offers the following special courses:

I. Religious Training. This course is especially adapted to those who desire training as Settlement Workers, Deaconesses, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Secretaries, Evangelists and Home Visitors.

II. Training for the Christian Ministry. This Department will train young men especially in practical Theology, the art of reaching and saving men. This course will be very thorough. The teachers have been selected with great care.

III. Department of Music, vocal and instrumental.

IV. Literary Branches. Academic and Collegiate.

V. Commercial Department.

VI. Department of Industry. Young men and women to a limited number, who are worthy, will be helped. All applications for admission must be made by September 15, 1910.

Regular school term begins October 12, 1910.

For further information address President, National Religious Training School, Durham, N. C.

Mr. Hennessy.

Among the most progressive men in this city is Mr. M. Hennessy. He is well versed in books and has one of the largest libraries of any citizen in Washington. Mr. Hennessy is a liberal man and one in whom the people have confidence. He is a friend to the poor, and his abilities call for greater things.

Automobile Corporation.

This corporation is growing stronger daily. Mr. W. R. Griffin is the manager, and will this evening, at True Reformers' Hall, show you what he has done for the young men in this line of work.

The 1910 Texas cotton crop is estimated to be 3,500,000 bales. At 15 cents a pound this will bring the planters about \$262,500,000.

The population of New Haven, Conn., according to census report, is 133,605.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

(By Miss G. B. Maxfield.)

Osawatimie battlefield, where, more than a half century ago, the noted abolitionist, John Brown, fired his first gun in defense of liberty, was dedicated as John Brown's Park Aug. 31.

Col. Roosevelt was the orator of the day.

A bronze statue of the late Thomas B. Reed, for many years Speaker of the House of Representatives, was unveiled Aug. 31 at his home in Portland, Me. The cost was about \$35,000.

Miss Lucy Johnson, sister of Jack Johnson, the world's champion pugilist, was married to a Mr. Otto Bowden, of Oklahoma. Among her presents were a check for \$3,000, a gift from her brother.

It is said that the Negroes in Philadelphia in a single bank opened 2,045 new accounts, and their deposits in all the banks amount to at least \$3,500,000.

More than 200 letters have been received by the Commissioners, protesting against the order extinguishing the lights in the suburban districts.

According to a statement given out by Supt. Stewart, instead of devoting so much time to the academic lines of study, more attention should be paid to the trade or vocational lines.

Henry Chapman, a numismatist, paid \$340 for a one-cent piece. The coin was made in 1793, and is of the "Liberty Cap" variety. It was formerly owned by Peter Moughly.

It is said Rev. D. Webster Davis is likely to be chosen pastor of the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church. Rev. Davis will preach there the third Sunday in September.

The Illinois manufacturers sent a telegram to President Taft, requesting a full membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission to conduct their hearing instead of special examiners.

The population of Philadelphia for 1910 is 1,549,008; in 1900 it was 1,293,607—a gain of 19 per cent.

It is said Mr. James F. Needham, John C. Dancy and Henry P. Slaughter are in the race to succeed Mr. Asbury as editor of the Odd Fellows Journal.

Two thousand and ninety dollars was collected during the month of July by W. C. Haskell, Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

The Washington, Laurel and Berwyn Railroad has been purchased by the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railway for \$75,000.

The total coinage at the United States mints during August consists of 17,593,500 pieces, valued at \$11,428,400, according to the statement issued from the Treasury Department.

Mr. B. H. Warner will make a great fight in the Sixth Maryland district. J. L. Brown, son and brother of Gov. Brown, of Georgia, is dangerously ill.

Ex-Gov. Odell, of New York, is back to New York, and things will be lively for a time.

Gen. Ellsworth D. S. Goodyear, of New Haven, Conn., who developed the rubber industry, is dead.

Ex-Judge Parker, of New York, wants the delegates for the Democratic State convention to work hard. There is a great fight on hand against Assistant Superintendent of Schools Bruce.

Smart Set has been the drawing card at the Howard Theater this week. The crew of the British freight steamer West Point suffered great hardship in midocean last Sunday.

It is claimed that Europe has plenty of money.

The Washington baseball team is a puzzle, one day up and the next day down.

Students have begun to register at Howard University.

The bandits who killed the paymaster and his colored driver, dropped their hoodle and will no doubt be caught.

President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt will unite the party before November.

The Negro Business League will be a factor in this country.

Dr. James B. Shepard is to-day the greatest educator in line in the United States. He is the pride of the South, and North Carolina especially. He is now in the North.

The Howard Theater should not want for patrons.

Dr. Thirkield is endeavoring to pick successors to Professors Cook and Joiner.

An Italian woman and a deputy sheriff are dead and an innocent bystander is critically wounded and four more persons are more or less injured as the result of a family row in New York.

The colored voters in the Sixth Maryland district are greatly divided.

Judge De Lacy urges night school education.

Rev. W. P. Hines, the noted evangelist, is in the city.

Rev. S. L. Corrothers wants 1,000 members for his independent organization.

A Polish Catholic priest broke all marriage records Labor Day at Utica, N. Y. He married 11 couples in one hour.

In spite of the Negro death rate, the Negro insurance companies have made wonderful progress. In 1909 \$114,137.58 was paid to beneficiaries by one insurance company in North Carolina.

Pennsylvania holds the record for liquor in all the States of the Union. Its annual liquor bill amounts to \$78,000,000. It has 12,000 saloons, 706 malt dealers and 1,020 wholesale dealers.